



FALL MEDIA WALK-THROUGH

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ DECEMBER 6, 2011 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

2012 REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 27-30 • TAMPA, FL



WWW.GOPCONVENTION2012.COM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome from Chief Executive Officer William D. Harris.....	1
Walk-Through Agenda.....	2
Convention Media Contacts.....	3
Congressional Press Galleries.....	4
Radio/TV.....	5
TV Broadcast Suites.....	5
TV Stand-Up Broadcast Positions.....	6
TV Network Pool.....	6
Radio Broadcast Booths.....	6
Radio Talk Show Row.....	6
RF Coordinator.....	6
Daily Press.....	7
Periodical Press.....	8
Press Photographers.....	9
Weekly Newspapers, Independent Bloggers and College Media.....	10
Freelance Journalists.....	11
Gallery Offices.....	11
Convention Broadcast.....	11
Access Dates.....	11
Media Center Complex.....	12
Media Housing.....	13
Transportation and Parking.....	13
General Services Contractor.....	14
Electrical Distribution.....	14
Cable Installation.....	15
Telecommunications.....	15
Diagrams.....	16-24
All About Tampa Bay.....	26-35
Special Thanks.....	39-40

WELCOME

December 6, 2011

Dear Media Representative:

Welcome to Tampa Bay, and to what we informally describe as the “campus” for the 2012 Republican National Convention.

I specifically welcome you to the Fall Media Walk-Through on behalf of the Republican National Committee’s Committee on Arrangements (COA) for the convention and our colleagues with the Tampa Bay Host Committee. Today marks an important milestone in our schedule to deliver the facilities, support and processes that will enable you to cover our convention in the most effective way.

Our briefing will cover the credentialing process, workspace and logistics, related costs, administration, housing, transportation and parking.

You will tour the site of the convention sessions, the St. Pete Times Forum. This venue will be officially renamed the Tampa Bay Times Forum on January 1, 2012.

You will also tour the Tampa Convention Center, the facility that will host the media workspace, media center, press conference facility, Radio Talk Show Row and other traditional features of the convention media complex.

You will learn how we will link these two facilities with a covered walkway and a rapid shuttle system.

Our experienced convention team is dedicated to giving you and some 15,000 of your colleagues the appropriate access and best working environment to cover this historic event for millions of Americans and billions of others around the world.

Enjoy your visit to this world class destination. Welcome to Tampa Bay!



William D. Harris
CEO, Committee on Arrangements
2012 Republican National Convention

WALK-THROUGH AGENDA

Fall Media Walk-Through Agenda

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Registration

St. Pete Times Forum

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Briefing and Q & A

St. Pete Times Forum

4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Tour

St. Pete Times Forum

4:30 p.m.

**Depart for Tampa
Convention Center**

4:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Tour

Tampa Convention Center

5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Q & A

Tampa Convention Center

6:00 p.m.

**Media Walk-Through
Reception**

Tampa Convention Center
Hosted by the Tampa Bay
Host Committee

CONVENTION MEDIA CONTACTS

The contact information for planning of coverage of the 2012 Republican National Convention is listed below. For requests such as credentials, workspace and housing, please read the instructions on the following pages before making your inquiries.

Media Operations Department

The Media Operations Department is responsible for operational and logistical issues such as media credentials, workspace, camera positions, broadcast booths, stand-up broadcast positions and cabling.

Julie Shugar

Director of Media Operations
2012 Republican National Convention
P.O. Box 1809
Tampa, FL 33601
(813) 381-5588
jshugar@gopconvention2012.com

Media Operations works closely with the four Congressional Press Galleries and members of the Network Pool on allocation of credentials, workspace, etc. For questions about applying for credentials and workspace, members of the media should contact the appropriate Congressional Gallery identified on the following pages that relates to their publication/organization. For example, a radio station applying for credentials should contact the House Radio/TV Gallery.

Communications Department

The Communications Department focuses on all media inquiries, press releases, media outreach and the convention message.

James Davis

Director of Communications
2012 Republican National Convention
P.O. Box 1809
Tampa, FL 33601
(813) 381-5588
jdavis@gopconvention2012.com

CONGRESSIONAL PRESS GALLERIES

The Committee on Arrangements (COA) will delegate the responsibility for handling and approving media applications for credentials, workspace and certain other functions to the four Congressional Press Galleries.

Each Congressional Press Gallery is governed by an elected committee of journalists from the membership of that Gallery. These committees have the final word on all Gallery responsibilities for the convention. Thus, the key decisions on media credentials, workspace and facilities for the convention are made by a committee of media peers rather than by a political party. This relationship between the Galleries and both major political parties dates back to 1912, and has been beneficial for everyone involved.

Under this system, the COA allocates credentials, workspace areas, media seating, camera positions, broadcast sky suites and stand-up areas to the Galleries in bulk numbers. The Galleries make the individual assignments. For example, if the Daily Press Gallery is allocated 50,000 sq. ft. of workspace, it will then determine the square footage for each newspaper organization and the specific location of each organization. Press seats will also be assigned from the total allocated by the convention.

Using the same procedure, the COA will determine and allocate a block of space for camera and broadcast positions. The Press Photographers Gallery will assign positions at areas designated for still photographers, and the Radio/TV Gallery will assign specific broadcast suites and stand-up positions.

There are corresponding offices represented in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate for each Gallery, with the exception of the Press Photographers Gallery, which operates solely out of the Senate. Below you will find the primary contact office for each Gallery that is responsible for accepting credential and workspace applications for the convention.

Radio/TV:

- House Gallery – Olga Ramirez Kornacki, Director
- Senate Gallery – Mike Mastrian, Director

Daily Press:

- House Gallery – Jerry Gallegos, Superintendent
- Senate Gallery – Joe Keenan, Director

Periodical Press:

- House Gallery – Rob Zatkowski, Director
- Senate Gallery – Ed Pesce, Director

Press Photographers

- Senate Gallery – Jeff Kent, Director
Mark Abraham, Deputy Director

All radio and television stations, including affiliates, independent groups and all foreign broadcasters should contact the House Radio/TV Gallery to apply for credentials, workspace, broadcast suites and stand-up broadcast positions.

House Radio/TV Gallery
Olga Ramirez Kornacki, Director
U.S. Capitol, H-320
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 226-5715
rtvconventions2012@mail.house.gov

Credentials and Workspace

Workspace for organizations accredited through the House Radio/TV Gallery will be located in the St. Pete Times Forum and the Tampa Convention Center.

The House Radio/TV Gallery will allocate workspace to its specific constituents.

The application process for broadcasters is available on the House Radio/TV Gallery website (radiotv.house.gov). If you have questions about the application process, please contact the House Radio/TV Gallery.

Application Dates and Deadlines

December 5 – Online application is available via the House Radio/TV website

February 1 – Deadline for applying for work space and/or broadcast space

April 15 – Deadline for applying for credentials

TV Broadcast Suites

Broadcast suites for affiliates, independents and other groups will be located among the suites on levels 3, 4, and 5.

The House Radio/TV Gallery will accept applications for the suites and assign them from the number approved for this purpose by the COA. Applicants should contact Olga Ramirez Kornacki for a schedule of meetings and deadlines involved in the suite application process.

An estimate of the base cost of a modified suite for broadcast users will be available at the time of this walk-through. In addition to this base cost, a separate contingency deposit will be required to cover unforeseen restoration and possible damage to common areas such as hallways.

The suites allocated to broadcasters will be for news purposes only.

TV Stand-Up Broadcast Positions

Stand-up broadcast positions for the affiliate and independent broadcast community are tentatively planned as shown on the podium design layouts in this book. These positions will be located on the arena floor and on level 4.

Built on rigid scaffolding to eliminate camera vibration, each position will be approximately six feet wide by 12 feet deep, carpeted, and include basic electrical distribution. An estimate of the base cost to broadcasters of a stand-up broadcast position is available.

TV Network Pool

Five major broadcast networks make up the Network Pool: ABC, CBS, CNN, FOX and NBC.

Due to the magnitude of their combined operations, Network Pool members work directly with the COA on their arrangements rather than the House Radio/TV Gallery. However, all affiliate and auxiliary organizations and individual stations of these networks should continue to deal directly with the House Radio/TV Gallery on their applications and arrangements.

Anchor positions and workspace for the Network Pool members will be assigned at a later date.

CBS has drawn the assignment of providing personnel for the Network Pool staff. This staff functions apart from CBS's own convention operations and will serve the needs of all Network Pool members. John Reade has been named Pool Producer for this convention.

Radio Broadcast Booths

Level 7, the top tier of the St. Pete Times Forum, will be the center of Forum radio operations for coverage of convention sessions. A limited number of booths available on that level will be assigned to radio groups through the authority of the House Radio/TV Gallery. Cost for use of these booths will be provided separately at this walk-through. The House Radio/TV Gallery will also use its delegated authority to assign individual, tabled seats on this level for radio correspondents.

Workspace for radio organizations will be in the Tampa Convention Center. Individual radio correspondents will use the Press Filing Center in the Convention Center.

Radio Talk Show Row

Applications for positions in Radio Talk Show Row are provided through the House Radio/TV Gallery. For the past four Republican conventions, Radio Talk Show Row has provided an energetic, highly popular environment for radio talk shows to broadcast and interview dignitaries, delegates, alternates, guests and others around the clock.

Radio Talk Show Row will be located in the Tampa Convention Center.

RF Coordinator

Louis Libin will again serve as the RF Coordinator for the convention. If your organization plans to use RF during the convention, you will be asked to provide contact information for your RF/Technical Coordinator on the House Radio/TV Gallery's application form.

DAILY PRESS

All daily newspapers, foreign dailies, newswire services and online news organizations affiliated with daily publications should contact the Senate Daily Press Gallery for credentials, workspace applications and other convention inquiries.

Senate Daily Press Gallery
Joe Keenan, Director
U.S. Capitol, S-316
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-0241
<http://www.senate.gov/galleries/daily/>

Credentials and Workspace

Workspace for organizations accredited through the Daily Press Galleries will be located in the St. Pete Times Forum and the Tampa Convention Center.

The Daily Press Galleries will allocate workspace to their specific constituents.

The application process for daily press is available on the Senate Daily Press Gallery website (<http://www.senate.gov/galleries/daily/>). Questions regarding the application process should be directed to the Senate Daily Press Gallery.

Application Dates and Deadlines

December 5 – Online application is available via the Senate Daily Press website
February 1 – Deadline for applying for work space and/or press seats
April 15 – Deadline for applying for credentials

Press Seating

Seats with writing tables will be provided for the dailies in the Press Stands. The number of seats is yet to be determined. Power outlets will be available. Telephone and computer lines may be ordered for installation at specific seats. The Congressional Daily Press Galleries will make these assignments. Additional seats for the daily press may be located elsewhere in the arena.



PERIODICAL PRESS

All periodical publications (magazines, newsletters, non-daily newspapers, online publications, etc.) should contact the Senate Periodical Press Gallery to apply for credentials and workspace.

Executive Committee of Periodical Correspondents
C/O Senate Periodical Press Gallery
Ed Pesce, Director
U.S. Capitol, Room S-320
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-0265
<http://www.senate.gov/galleries/pdcl/>

Credentials and Workspace

Workspace for organizations accredited through the Senate Periodical Press Gallery will be located in the Tampa Convention Center.

The Senate Periodical Press Gallery will allocate workspace to its specific constituents.

The application process for periodical publications is available on the Senate Periodical Press Gallery website (<http://www.senate.gov/galleries/pdcl/>). Questions regarding the application process should be directed to the Senate Periodical Press Gallery.

Application Dates and Deadlines

December 5 – Online application is available via the Senate Periodical Press Gallery website
February 1 – Deadline for applying for work space and/or press seats
April 15 – Deadline for applying for credentials

Press Seating

Seats with writing tables will be provided for the Periodical Press in the Press Stands. The number of these seats is yet to be determined. Power outlets will be available. Telephone and computer lines may be ordered for installation at specific seats. The Congressional Periodical Press Galleries will make these assignments. Additional seats for the Periodical Press may be located elsewhere in the arena.



PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS

All photographers representing qualified publications and news services who plan to cover the convention should contact the Press Photographers Gallery to apply for credentials and workspace.

Standing Committee of Press Photographers
Press Photographers Gallery
Jeff Kent, Director
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-6548
Press_Photo@saa.senate.gov
<http://www.senate.gov/galleries/photo/index.htm>

Credentials and Workspace

Workspace for organizations accredited through the Senate Press Photographers Gallery will be located in the St. Pete Times Forum and the Tampa Convention Center.



The Press Photographers Gallery will allocate workspace to their specific constituents.

The application process for press photographers is available on the Press Photographers Gallery website (<http://www.senate.gov/galleries/photo/index.htm>). If you have questions about the application process, please contact the Press Photographers Gallery.

Application Dates and Deadlines

December 5 – Online application is available via the Press Photographers' website

February 1 – Deadline for applying for work space

April 15 – Deadline for applying for credentials

Still Photo Positions

A limited number of positions for still photographers will be provided on designated camera stand locations. The Press Photographers Gallery will assign these positions. The COA will work with the Press Photographers Gallery to locate other positions for still photographers. Photography credentials will also give bearers roaming privileges in certain parts of the arena.

WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS, INDEPENDENT BLOGGERS & COLLEGE MEDIA

The appropriate editor or news director of the organization should apply in writing on the organization's letterhead on behalf of the individual who will cover the convention. A recent copy of the publication or online content featuring the work of the reporter should be included with each letter.

Correspondence should be addressed to:

Special Press Credentials
2012 Republican National Convention
P.O. Box 1809
Tampa, FL 33625

Questions regarding Special Press Credentials should be directed to:

Special Press
Phone: (813) 418-7829
Email: special_press@gopconvention2012.com

Workspace

Those accredited with Special Press Credentials may use the Press Filing Center in the Tampa Convention Center to file stories.

Bloggers belonging to larger media organizations will be credentialed through those groups and use the workspace and other facilities assigned to the parent organizations. Independent, credentialed bloggers will use the Press Filing Center in the Tampa Convention Center. Seats for this limited group in the St. Pete Times Forum for convention sessions will be assigned later.

Seating

Special Press seats will be assigned by the COA.



FREELANCE JOURNALISTS

Freelance writers, photographers and broadcast production personnel may only be accredited if assigned by a credible news organization for the purpose of covering the convention. The application must be made by the editor, news director or executive of said publication or production on the freelancer's behalf to the proper Gallery office. (Example: a freelancer's request for a weekly magazine would be submitted to the Periodical Press Galleries).

GALLERY OFFICES

Each Gallery will have an assigned office for the issuance of convention media credentials. Office locations will be determined at a later date. Notification by the Galleries of convention accreditation will include the specific location of these offices and the dates and hours when credentials will be issued. No credentials will be mailed.

CONVENTION BROADCAST

A basic feed will be made available to members of the media for free satellite download. Recipients will receive a mixed feed from a head-on camera and from cameras at several other angles within the arena, including delegate floor wide shots and close-ups of individuals and state delegations.

ACCESS DATES

The COA gains unlimited access to the St. Pete Times Forum on July 15, 2012, and to the Tampa Convention Center on July 16, 2012. Unlimited access for media organizations to their assigned media work areas is currently scheduled to begin on July 23, 2012 for the Forum, and August 1, 2012 for the Convention Center. Earlier scheduled move-in may be available upon request to the Director of Media Operations, Julie Shugar.



MEDIA CENTER COMPLEX

The Media Center will be located in the Tampa Convention Center. This area serves as the focal point for contact between the convention and the media.

The Media Center makes available all speeches, biographies and other background materials. It is also the distribution point for all press releases, calendars, program schedules and other schedules around the Tampa Bay area.

This facility will include the following key operations to serve the media:

Press Conference and Briefing Room

This facility, which opens the week prior to the convention, will be the scene of both English and Spanish briefings and press conferences throughout the convention.

Press Filing Center

The Press Filing Center serves the needs of media individuals and organizations that do not have assigned workspace in the convention complex. Electrical outlets, work stations and hookups for laptop and other portable computers will be available.

Surrogate Operation

Reporters and correspondents may use the services of this facility to schedule and obtain interviews and stand-up broadcast opportunities with members of the Republican Party, including delegates, alternates, elected officials, former office holders, Party leaders and other Party members.

Communications Services

The COA has again partnered with PR Newswire to distribute convention news and information to credentialed media. In the past, this amenity has allowed journalists access to a secure web portal tailored to individual news preferences. More information about this complimentary service will be available in the coming months.

Newspaper delivery service will be available to those in the Tampa Convention Center. More information will be available at a later date.

MEDIA HOUSING

The COA has reserved 15,000 rooms in approximately 100 Tampa Bay area hotels for the convention.

To request housing for the 2012 Republican National Convention, please complete the online hotel request form:

<http://www.GOPConvention2012.com/media/hotelform>

User: gopconvention
Password: tbhotel

All applications must be submitted by May 1, 2012.

Hotel rooms will only be released to credentialed and approved media.

TRANSPORTATION & PARKING

Orlando-based SP Plus Gameday has been selected to provide transportation services for the convention. Gameday will manage a fleet of 300 modern, air-conditioned buses and other services. The media will have access to the bus system operating between the convention complex and designated hotels during convention week.

A step-on, go-now shuttle system for the media will provide immediate continuous service throughout the convention period for the short distance between the St. Pete Times Forum, where the convention will be held, and the Tampa Convention Center, the media headquarters. An enclosed walkway will be provided as an option for those who choose to walk.

Availability of media parking during convention week including the location, number of spaces and fee per space will be determined at a later date.

GENERAL SERVICES CONTRACTOR

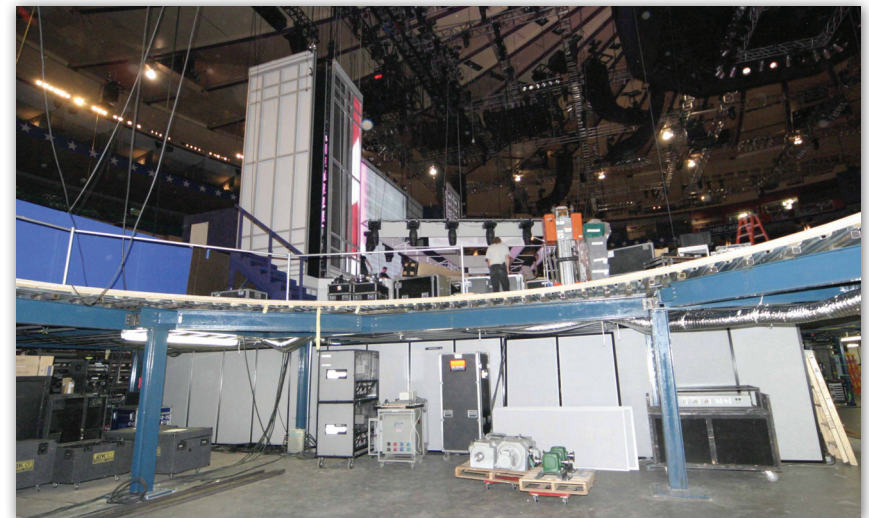
Freeman has been selected as the General Services Contractor for the 2012 Republican National Convention. They have served in this role since the 1984 Republican National Convention in Dallas, Texas.

Services and equipment available from Freeman include furniture, drywall construction, room dividers or pipe and drape, material handling, general labor, signage, electrical distribution, cabling, aerial rigging and audio/visual services. Freeman has a long history of using recycled materials and will continue its environmentally friendly business practices at the convention. Freeman will modify the suites to be used by the affiliate and independent broadcasters as well as construct all camera stands and stand-up broadcast platforms. Freeman will also handle space layouts and marking of area for setup.

The following functions will also be handled by Freeman or a subsidiary or subcontractor thereof:

Electrical Distribution

Freeman will have exclusive responsibility for electrical distribution within the entire convention complex. Power charges to the media will be based upon actual consumption at established consumption rates, plus charges for power distribution from central access points within the media work areas. Pricing for electrical services will be provided at the Spring Walk-Through.



Cable Routes/Cable Installation

Freeman will work in conjunction with the COA to identify all approved cable routes in and between the Forum and the media workspace. Freeman will manage and provide services and labor as needed to install and remove temporary media cable in public areas as required.

Move-In

All unloading and other move-in operations including freight handling will be coordinated and supervised by Freeman.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Bright House Networks will provide a voice and data communications infrastructure in various locations around the convention complex. Bright House Networks' rate book is available.

A Bright House Networks Service Center at the convention will accommodate changes and provide repair services. Information on convention-related telecommunications services is available from the following:

Bright House Networks

Phone: 1-855-2012RNC

Website: <http://www.brighthouse.com/RNC>

Direct fiber connectivity will be available between the St. Pete Times Forum and the Tampa Convention Center. Details and pricing will be offered by the date of the Spring Walk-Through.



BY THE NUMBERS

THE 2012 REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

- ★ The 2012 event will mark the **40TH** Republican National Convention.
- ★ Florida has hosted the Republican National Convention **3** times. The last time was in Miami Beach in 1972.
- ★ Roughly **50,000** participants are expected at the 2012 Republican National Convention.
- ★ Delegates will be attending from all **56** states and U.S. territories.
- ★ The 2012 event will mark the **3RD** time William D. Harris has served as CEO for the convention.
- ★ The 2012 event will mark COO Michael V. Miller's **13TH** convention.
- ★ Hosting venue the St. Pete Times Forum (as of January 1, 2012, the Tampa Bay Times Forum) can seat **21,500** guests in total.
- ★ The Forum puts on over **150** events each year.
- ★ Approximately **5,000** individuals will be sent to the convention as delegates and alternate delegates.
- ★ Approximately **300** buses will transport guests to and from the Forum.
- ★ **15,000** credentialed media are expected to attend the 2012 Republican National Convention.
- ★ The Tampa Convention Center will offer **600,000** square feet of workspace to media outlets who attend the convention.
- ★ **7,500** dedicated volunteers will offer their time at the convention.



2012 REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

AUGUST 27-30, 2012 – TAMPA, FL

ABOUT THE 2012 REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

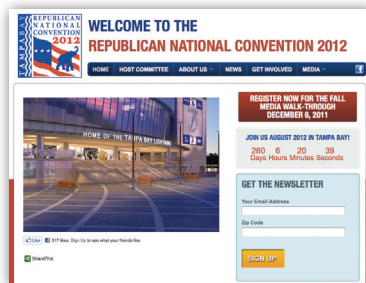
The 2012 Republican National Convention will be held at the St. Pete Times Forum (as of January 1, 2012, the Tampa Bay Times Forum) from August 27-30, 2012. Nearly 50,000 visitors are expected to arrive in the Tampa Bay area for the event, including delegates, alternate delegates, members of the media and other invited guests. The event will have a positive economic effect on the Tampa Bay area as well as the state of Florida.

ON TRACK FOR AN UNPARALLELED CONVENTION

Leadership: Leaders for the 2012 Republican National Convention have more than a century of combined experience and expertise in managing these quadrennial events. Committee on Arrangements Chairman Alec Poitevint, Chief Executive Officer William D. Harris, and Chief Operating Officer Michael V. Miller will head up the team of individuals dedicated to making the 2012 event the best in convention history.

Staff: Currently around 20 staff members run day-to-day operations. As August 2012 draws nearer, this number will grow to over 100.

Website: The convention innovation team will make this a “Convention without Walls,” using the latest technology to take you behind-the-scenes to experience convention preparations. Our Spanish-language website will also ensure the broadest spectrum of convention supporters, guests and media can take part in nominating the next Republican President of the United States.



Local Economic Impact: Convention team members live, work and play in Tampa Bay—and businesses here are reaping the benefits! From dry cleaning and grocery shopping, to eating out and enjoying the performing arts, staff members are putting money back into the local economy. We are also working with a number of local and regional businesses to put on the convention itself, including transportation company SP Plus Gameday.

Giving Back: As new residents in Tampa Bay, convention staff members seek to give back and say “thank you” to the community. These activities include: recognizing World War II veterans through the Honor Flight organization; raising money for cancer patients through ‘Painting with a Twist’; meeting and working with inspiring athletes through the Special Olympics; and reaching out to those in need through Metropolitan Ministries.

Safe and Secure: The Department of Homeland Security has designated the 2012 Republican National Convention as a National Special Security Event (NSSE). This designation qualifies the host community for federal funding and assistance in security planning and implementation. The United States Secret Service is the coordinating agency.

2012 HOST LOCATION: INTRODUCING BEAUTIFUL TAMPA BAY

As the second most populated metropolitan region in the Sunshine State, the Tampa Bay area has a lot to offer, from rich history and pristine natural beauty, to a favorable business climate and more. The Committee on Arrangements is excited to work with the Tampa Bay Host Committee to prepare for the convention.

THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT TAMPA BAY:

- The region collectively referred to as “Tampa Bay” is made up of a number of surrounding cities, municipalities and communities in addition to the city of Tampa. Some of these include: Temple Terrace, Plant City, Seminole Heights, Lake Thonotosassa, Brandon, Riverview, Lithia, Clearwater, St. Petersburg and Tarpon Springs.
- Nearly three million people call Tampa Bay home – that is one-sixth of the entire population of Florida!
- The Port of Tampa is the seventh largest in the U.S. – and serves not only as a base for imports and exports, but also as a docking point for large cruise lines.
- Tampa Bay is a strong military community. It is home to MacDill Air Force Base, the base of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM), the Joint Communications Support Element (JCSE), the 6th Air Mobility Wing and over 40 other tenant units.
- Tampa Bay boasts some of the nicest weather in the country. The average temperature (in degrees Fahrenheit) during the summer is around 82, while winter temperatures usually hover in the mid-60s.
- On average, Tampa Bay receives some amount of sunshine 361 of the 365 days in a year.



NEARLY 500 YEARS

IN THE MAKING: A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AREA

Long before political conventions—or modern politics, for that matter—Tampa Bay was inhabited by a group of Native Americans called the Tocobaga, as well as other, smaller Native American groups. In 1528, Spanish Conquistador Panfilo de Narvaez landed in the area and officially put Tampa Bay on the map. Fast-forward 300 years, and the Tampa Bay of today was already starting to take shape.

900-1500s: The as-of-yet unnamed Tampa Bay area is largely inhabited by a tribe of Native Americans known as the Tocobaga. Smaller Native groups also live in the area. 1528: The first recorded phase of European civilization reaches the shores of Tampa Bay when Spanish conquistador Panfilo de Narvaez lands there. Though Spaniard Ponce de Leon had explored Florida years earlier, he never made it to Tampa Bay.

1821: Almost 300 years after the first European set foot in Tampa Bay, and after changing hands many times, Florida becomes a U.S. territory. It would be admitted as the 27th state in the United States on March 3, 1845.

1855: Tampa is incorporated as a city. When phosphate is discovered nearby in the late 1880s, the resulting mining and shipping industries prompted a boom of growth and wealth that last for over a decade.

1884: Henry Plant's railroad extension to the Hillsborough River, along with the construction of the Tampa Bay Hotel, gave the fledgling tourism industry the boost it needed to start growing.

1886: Vicente Martinez Ybor establishes the first cigar factory in Tampa. This area of the city, located in two square miles between Nebraska Avenue, 22nd Street, Columbus Drive and East Broadway, would soon become the epicenter of cigar production. The area is later renamed Ybor City.

1914: Further proving Tampa Bay's abilities in innovation and industry, the area becomes the home of the world's first regularly-scheduled commercial airline service, the St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line, launched by P.E. Fansler.

1960s-Present: Tampa Bay has grown phenomenally since the 1960s; many major companies have their base operations here. The metro area, comprised of Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater, along with adjacent communities, is the second most populated area in Florida. Nearly three million people reside in the Tampa Bay area!

Timeline courtesy of tampabay.net, the Florida Memory Project (floridamemory.com), Tampa Bay & Co., and "Exploring Florida" (fcit.usf.edu)

THE CONVENTION VENUE:

A LOOK INSIDE THE ST. PETE TIMES FORUM

Next August, a group of over 50,000 guests, delegates, media members and staff will gather in the state-of-the-art St. Pete Times Forum for the 2012 Republican National Convention.

The Forum, which will be renamed the Tampa Bay Times Forum on January 1, 2012, has played host to sold-out concerts, exciting sporting events, ice shows, rodeos, the circus and more. Both the Tampa Bay Lightning (NHL) and the Tampa Bay Storm (AFL) use the arena as their home arena each season.

The COA will work closely with the Forum as we prepare the venue to host its first Presidential nominating convention.

ST. PETE TIMES FORUM AT-A-GLANCE:

- **Staggering Size:** The St. Pete Times Forum encompasses 670,000 square feet with three decks and seven separate levels. The building contains 3,400 tons of steel, 30,000 cubic yards of concrete and 70,000 square feet of glass.
- **History:** The St. Pete Times Forum opened in 1996 as the Ice Palace. The arena was built as a new home for the Lightning to replace Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Florida, which was then known as the Thunderdome. Upon the completion of the Ice Palace, both the Tampa Bay Lightning and the Tampa Bay Storm—also a tenant of the Thunderdome—moved in to the arena.
- **A New Name:** A few years after the venue opened in 1996, naming rights to the Ice Palace were sold to the St. Petersburg Times. The daily newspaper, which circulates throughout the Tampa Bay area, renamed the venue its current moniker. On January 1, 2012, the St. Pete Times Forum will be renamed the Tampa Bay Times Forum, following an announcement that the Tampa Bay Arena, LP and Times Publishing Company extended their naming rights contract through August 31, 2018.
- **Renovate and Restore:** The St. Pete Times Forum recently underwent a \$40 million transformation. Improvements were funded independently so as not to financially burden the Tampa Bay area. Renovations include:
 - 20,000 new plush seats, complete with cup holders and branded with the Tampa Bay Lightning logo
 - The resurfacing and sealing of over 75,000 square feet covering the arena's concourses, promenade and terrace levels
 - 242 new sport lights
 - New LED digital signage that will eventually grace all 360 degrees of the terrace level, along with 14 other new LED displays that will soon be installed



- **Notable Sports Events:** The St. Pete Times Forum hosted the 1999 NHL All-Star Game and the first and second round games of the 2003 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. The Forum also hosted four of the seven games of the 2004 Stanley Cup Finals, when the Tampa Bay Lightning defeated the Calgary Flames to win their first Stanley Cup.

HOUSING THE MEDIA: THE TAMPA CONVENTION CENTER

The media is crucial to the success of the 2012 Republican National Convention. From grassroots outlets to national news channels, the convention will be attended and covered by approximately 15,000 members of the accredited media. The Tampa Convention Center will provide these credentialed individuals and outlets with more than 600,000 total feet of workspace, located just a short shuttle ride or walk away from the St. Pete Times Forum.

AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE CONVENTION CENTER

- Located on the Tampa waterfront, the Convention Center has many flexible meeting areas—600,000 square feet of space total.

- Major spaces include:

Exhibit Hall

- 200,000 square feet with 30-foot-tall ceilings and 125,000 unobstructed square feet

Ballroom

- 36,000 square feet accommodates up to 3,600 people sitting theatre-style

Additional Meeting Spaces

- 36 additional meeting rooms (includes 10 rooms that look over the water)
- Over 84,000 feet of flexible pre-function space

Freight Access

- 22 covered bays and 3 freight doors allow for access to the Exhibit Hall level
- The Convention Center also houses a business center, a cyber café, Starbucks and the Taste of Ybor café.



TAMPA CONVENTION CENTER: GIVING BACK

The Convention Center strives to give back to the community, with outreach efforts including:

- Participation in "Teaching Tools for Hillsborough Schools" to give local students school supplies;
- Excess food donations from functions to area charities, including Metropolitan Ministries, Second Harvest and The Salvation Army.

AREA ATTRACTIONS: THINGS TO DO AND SEE IN TAMPA BAY

The Tampa Bay area is home to a wide array of world-class museums and performing arts venues, sports arenas, renowned restaurants, beautiful beaches, historic landmarks, and more.

Below you will find a taste of some of the local places of interest. This is a sampling of things to do in the beautiful Tampa Bay area – take some time to enjoy these area treasures.



Florida Aquarium: Explore 200,000 square feet of fun at the Florida Aquarium! This learning center is a premier family destination in downtown Tampa, where you can meet a penguin face-to-beak or watch the children splash the day away in the outdoor water fun zone, "Explore A Shore." The Aquarium also offers dolphin eco tours, and an opportunity to swim with the fishes.

The Columbia Restaurant: Visit the oldest Spanish restaurant in Florida for a famed 1905 salad or a glass of refreshing Sangria, and you will know why this world-renowned establishment was nicknamed 'the Gem of Spanish Restaurants'! Founded in 1905 in Ybor City, this landmark is still owned and operated by the Tampa-based Gonzmart family and serves award-winning Spanish and Cuban cuisine.

Tampa Museum of Art: Located in downtown Tampa, the Tampa Museum of Art boasts an impressive collection, ranging from Greek and Roman antiquities to lithographs by contemporary artists. The museum is the proud culmination of three decades of cooperation among art organizations, private citizens, and government agencies in Tampa and Hillsborough County. It celebrated its 30th Anniversary in 2009.

The Dali Museum: Known for his ever-evolving work and resistance to using just one type of media, Salvador Dali inspired millions to rethink how they look at the world around them. The Dali Museum, located in downtown St. Petersburg, showcases the work he left behind, including a wealth of oils, watercolors, drawings, graphics, sculptures, films, photographs, performance pieces, jewels and more.



Information courtesy of Tampa Bay & Co., tampabeaches.com, tampa4u.com and individual locations' websites.

Glazer Children's Museum: This self-described "Museum Where it's Okay to Kid Around" has one goal – grow children's minds. Using games, challenges and activities geared for kids aged birth to 10 years, pint sized visitors (and adults!) can learn a lot about the world they live in without worrying about breaking anything.

Tampa Theater: Built in 1926 in downtown Tampa as one of America's most elaborate "movie palaces," the Tampa Theatre is a fiercely protected and generously supported landmark. The Theatre presents and hosts over 600 events a year including a full schedule of first-run and classic films, concerts, special events, corporate events, tours and educational programs. The theatre is one of the most heavily utilized venues of its kind in the United States, and has welcomed over 5 million guests since the late 1970s.

Beaches: For many American and international tourists, Tampa Bay is the one-stop-shop for a perfect beach vacation. From the popular Clearwater and St. Petersburg beaches, to secluded Caladesi Island State Park Beach (which you can only reach by ferry), visitors can enjoy the white sand and warm sunshine at over 25 area beaches.



Busch Gardens: Located near the beautiful Gulf Coast, you'll find yourself on the edge of Africa at Busch Gardens in Tampa Bay. Your experience could include up-close encounters with amazing animals, an unforgettable safari across the Serengeti Plains, or a ride on a pulse-pounding roller coaster. As a plus, this park is open year-round.

Lowry Park Zoo: Voted "#1 Zoo in the U.S." by Parents Magazine, Lowry Park has something

for everyone. With more than 1,500 wild animals housed in 56 acres of lush natural habitats, the zoo has a diverse collection that is suited for the Tampa Bay climate.

Golf courses: With over 120 public and private courses, shooting a round or practicing your putt is easy in Tampa Bay! Take advantage of the Tampa Bay area's golf amenities on your convention visit.

Tampa Bay Sports: Whether you want to catch a Lightning game at the St. Pete Times forum, watch the Buccaneers kick-off at Raymond James Stadium, or sit behind home plate to see the Rays strike a batter out in Tropicana Field - Tampa Bay is the perfect place for your favorite sports activities.



PAST REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION FACILITIES

1984

Host City - Dallas

Location - Dallas Convention Center

Figures

- Type of Facility - Convention Hall
- Total Number of Seats - 18,200
- VIP Boxes - 25
- Guest Seating - 13,720
- Total Square Footage - 600,000 sq. ft.
- Main Convention Area - 250,000 sq. ft.
- Ancillary Space - 300,000 sq. ft.
- Complete Access Time - 25 Days
- Hotel Rooms Used - 17,000

1988

Host City - New Orleans

Location - Louisiana Superdome

Figures

- Type of Facility - Dome
- Total Number of Seats - 79,000
- VIP Boxes - 70
- Guest Seating - 35,000
- Total Square Footage - 1,000,000 sq. ft.
- Main Convention Area - 240,000 sq. ft.
- Ancillary Space - 470,000 sq. ft.
- Complete Access Time - 48 Days
- Hotel Rooms Used - 17,500

1992

Host City - Houston

Location - Houston Astrodome

Figures

- Type of Facility - Dome
- Total Number of Seats - 60,000
- VIP Boxes - 66
- Guest Seating - 35,000
- Total Square Footage - 891,000 sq. ft.
- Main Convention Area - 126,728 sq. ft.
- Ancillary Space - 1,050,000 sq. ft.
- Complete Access Time - 5 Weeks
- Hotel Rooms Used - 17,000

1996

Host City - San Diego

Location - San Diego Convention Center

Figures

- Type of Facility - Convention Hall
- Total Number of Seats - 19,222 (no fixed seating, this is the same as the convention total)
- VIP Boxes - 71 temporary (Networks used portable anchor booths for the last time)
- Guest Seating - 19,222
- Total Square Footage - 952,500 sq. ft. (convention center including lower parking lot)
- Main Convention Area - 245,000 sq. ft.
- Ancillary Space - 866,742 sq. ft. (convention center inside and adjacent hotels had 363,492 sq. ft.; outside parking lots and front street had 503,250 for trailers)
- Complete Access Time - 8 Weeks
- Hotel Rooms Used - 17,000

PAST REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION FACILITIES

NOTES

2000

Host City - Philadelphia

Location - First Union Center

Figures

- Type of Facility - Arena
- Total Number of Seats - 20,328
- VIP Boxes - 100
- Guest Seating - 18,878
- Total Square Footage - 900,000 sq. ft.
- Main Convention Area - 26,000 sq. ft.
- Ancillary Space - 75,000 sq. ft.tented;
- 450,000 sq. ft. parking lot for trailers
- Complete Access Time - 9 Weeks
- Hotel Rooms Used - 20,000

2004

Host City - New York

Location - Madison Square Garden

Figures

- Type of Facility - Arena
- Total Number of Seats - 19,763
- VIP Boxes - 90
- Guest Seating - 18,828
- Total Square Footage - 950,000 sq. ft.
- Main Convention Area - 20,924 sq. ft.
- - raised floor 31,500 sq. ft.
- Ancillary Space - 400,000 sq. ft.
- (includes Farley, MSG Exhibit Hall and theatre)
- Complete Access Time - 9 Weeks
- Hotel Rooms Used - 17,000

2008

Host City - Minneapolis/St. Paul

Location - Xcel Energy Center

Figures

- Type of Facility - Arena
- Total Number of Seats - 21,375
- VIP Boxes - 74 existing, 10 temporary for media
- Guest Seating - 18,875
- Total Square Footage - 902,012 sq. ft.
- Main Convention Area - 25,000 sq. ft.
- Ancillary Space - 352,012 sq. ft.
- (Rivercenter, Wilkins Arena and parking lots)
- Complete Access Time - 10 Weeks



NOTES

NOTES

SPECIAL THANKS

COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS



Tampa Convention Center

SPECIAL THANKS

TAMPA BAY HOST COMMITTEE



ST. PETERSBURG
CLEARWATER



creative group





Paid for by The Committee on Arrangements for the
2012 Republican National Convention.
www.gopconvention2012.com
Post Office Box 1809, Tampa, FL 33601
Not authorized by any candidate or any candidate's committee.